



June 10, 2014

The Honorable Devin Nunes  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Trade  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Trade  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nunes and Ranking Member Rangel,

Thank you for convening your June 11, 2014 hearing on "Advancing the U.S. Trade Agenda: Benefits of Expanding U.S. Agriculture Trade and Eliminating Barriers to U.S. Exports." Your leadership in keeping the export facing portion of our economy strong is appreciated.

I write to advise you of our grave concern about the potential for a World Trade Organization ruling that the U.S. is violating its international trade obligations through the effects of the Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) requirements for muscle cuts of meat. An issue paper prepared by the COOL Reform Coalition on the subject is enclosed for your information.

The Corn Refiners Association respectfully urges Congress to authorize and direct the Secretary of Agriculture to immediately suspend the meat COOL regulations upon a final WTO adjudication of noncompliance with international trade obligations. Such a Congressional action would neither pre-judge the pending WTO litigation on this matter nor allow an on-going period of knowing violation of international trade obligations.

We submit that jeopardizing the U.S. trading relationship with our two leading agricultural export markets due to a U.S. failure to meet international trade obligations would be intolerable. In the event the U.S. meat COOL rule is found non-compliant, the rule should immediately be suspended.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Bode".

John W. Bode  
President and C.E.O.  
Corn Refiners Association

## **Supplemental Information**

Statement attributed to:

Corn Refiners Association (CRA)

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Title of Hearing: Advancing the U.S. Trade Agenda: Benefits of Expanding U.S. Agriculture Trade  
and Eliminating Barriers to U.S. Exports